

Gun-toting thief gets 68 yrs

Kimmy Blair
Street Hype Writer

A forty-nine-year-old gun-toting thief who went on an epic 34-day robbery spree in Brooklyn was sentenced to 68 years in prison on Wednesday (March 26).

Robert Costan who is of a Brooklyn address, targeted stores in Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope and Fort Greene from October 17, 2012 until November 20, 2012.

Costan robbed some of the stores multiple times—and allegedly told one repeat victim, “Don’t be cheap like the

last time.” He was busted in 2012 and charged with 12 robberies.

“As part of his robbery spree, this defendant terrorized hardworking employees and business owners. The long prison time he now faces sends a clear message that those who would disrupt the safety of our communities will pay dearly for their crimes,” said Brooklyn DA Kenneth Thompson.

A jury convicted Costan, on March 13, 2014 of nine counts of armed robbery, attempted armed robbery, and other charges.



Robert Costan, 49

Police arrested Costan on November 22, 2012. During a search, police officers also found two-forged driver’s licenses, from Virginia and Rhode Island. Clerks who were victims from each establishment identified costan in a line-up.

Kori A. Medow and Assistant District Attorney Matthew Wright, supervised by the Bureau Chief Thomas C. Ridges, prosecuted the case.

Tax Preparer on Fraud Charges

By Kimmy Blair
Street Hype Writer

Queens Tax Return Preparer Williesteina Jacobs was indicted in the Eastern District of New York on Friday (March 21) and charged with 27 counts of aiding in the preparation of false returns, the Justice Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced following her arrest.

According to the indictment, Jacobs owned and operated a tax preparation business called International Professional Business Services, which was located in South Richmond Hill, and Jamaica.

The indictment charges that Jacobs prepared false personal income tax returns for clients for tax years 2007 through 2009.



Williesteina Jacobs
CEO, International Professional Business Services

Jacobs allegedly attached false schedules that reported business losses the taxpayers did not incur and attached schedules that reported inflated or fictitious deductions.

An indictment merely alleges that crimes have been committed, and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. If convicted, Jacobs faces a statutory maximum sentence of three years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 on each count.

The case was investigated by special agents of IRS – Criminal Investigation.

Trial Attorneys Jennifer Laraia and Stephen Descano of the Justice Department’s Tax Division are prosecuting the case.



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Editorial

We must stop the gun trade

The gun is now the weapon of choice for most criminals in the US and several other countries. It is estimated that gun violence takes the lives of over 30,000 Americans every year.

Several urban cities including New York City are flooded with illegal guns. All have reported incidents of criminal activities with the gun as the weapon of preference.

It would appear that everybody wants a gun as they seek protection. Others have attempted to settle petty disputes or use the gun for more serious crime of robbery, rape and murder.

It would also appear that people are observing the Second Amendment (Amendment II) to the United States Constitution which "protects the right of individuals to keep and bear arms." The Amendment was adopted on December 15, 1791, as part of the first ten amendments comprising the Bill of Rights and was based partially on the right to keep and bear arms in English common-law.

The late Sir William Blackstone described this right as an auxiliary right, supporting the natural rights of self-defense, resistance to oppression, and the civic duty to act in concert in defense of the state.

Some 223 years since the adoption of the Second Amendment, our security system has been modernized with the various city, state and federal agencies responsible for the protection of life and properties.

While there may be weaknesses and inefficiencies in our security systems, it is no longer necessary for most American to "keep and bear arms." However, gun sellers and other interest groups are determined to arm the people and oversupply the country with the lethal weapons.

As we recalled the hundreds of people who have been killed by criminal elements and police officers, the gun was the weapon of choice in most cases. We are however encouraged as Mayor de Blasio is joining the gun-control advocacy group founded and funded by former Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Often critical of the previous administration, de Blasio said he's a big supporter of Bloomberg's high-profile push for stronger gun control measures. "Mayor Bloomberg took on this fight when few others would, and today we are safer for it," de Blasio said in a statement to The News. "He built a national movement for common-sense gun control — one I am proud to join."

At the State level, Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently signed a new gun-control law which has been described as the toughest in the nation.

It includes a stronger ban on assault weapons, as well as a lowering of the number of bullets allowed in a magazine from 10 to seven.

As the politicians move towards fixing our broken gun-control law, we as citizens must continue the campaign of removing all illegal guns from our streets and increase penalties for "straw" purchases of guns by one individual for another buyer.



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The opinions expressed in this newspaper, except for the above, do not necessarily reflect the views of Street Hype Newspaper and its publishers. Please send your comments and or suggestions to editor@streethypenewspaper.com. Responses should be no longer than 400 words. Not all articles will be published

people are talking...!

What's Your Passion?

Passion is an overwhelming feeling of attraction for something or someone that is an emotional response not based on reason or cognition. People can be passionate about a hobby or their work.

They can be passionate about an idea or social movement. They can be passionate about other people in their lives. When people feel passion, they are no longer indifferent about something or someone in their lives.

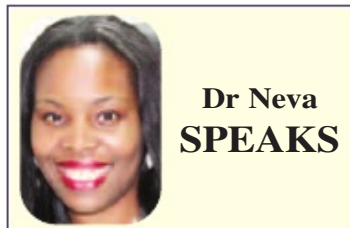
Passion is a key factor for leadership. Effective leaders are passionate about achieving a goal or objective; passion increases their commitment. Passionate people have greater dedication because of their strong desire to reach a goal. Passion functions as a personal motivator for leaders, encouraging them to take the specific actions necessary to achieve a goal. It contributes to developing the enthusiasm and confidence necessary to lead others.

Only you can decide what you feel passionate about. It may be a cause, a job, or relationships with your family. You may already know what you feel passionate about based on your interests and experiences. Because passion is an emotion, it is difficult to contain or control once it is ignited. When you become involved with something you feel passionate about, it is easier to remain focused and inspired.

Your passions also reflect your values and implicitly communicate these values to others. For example, if you are passionate about improving social conditions, others perceive that you are dedicated to helping people.

Despite the importance of passion for leadership, it can be harmful if the passion grows into an obsession to achieve a goal or objective, which occurs when a person becomes excessively focused on achieving a goal with all energy directed to a single purpose.

Followers often recognize leaders moti-



Dr Neva SPEAKS

vated by obsessive passion and are less motivated by these leaders because they are uncertain if the need to achieve the goal advocated by the leader is legitimate or a manifestation of the leader's obsession.

You can leverage your passion to improve your ability to lead others. As a result, you should recognize the things you feel most passionate about and understand the degree of emotion you feel.



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At the same time, you should understand that passions tend to change over time. What you feel passionate about today may not be what you feel passionate about in years ahead. As a result, you should periodically consider whether you still feel passionately about the same things or people as you have in the past. This will improve your understanding of your passions and its usefulness in leadership.

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NEWS



Radio personality WVIP, Tony Cobb raps with City Councilman Andy King (r) at the Affordable Healthcare sign-up session held on Saturday (March 22), at the NAACP Center, Bronx. US Congressman Charles Rangel was also a special guest at the event.

Jones challenges Republican contender

PATERSON NJ—

Mayor Jeffery Jones has issued a challenge to one of the potential contenders for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, and it's not the man currently sitting in the governor's office in Trenton.

Offended by comments that Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., recently made regarding people living in poverty, Jones sent the 2012 GOP vice presidential candidate

a letter inviting him to Paterson. Jones cited in his letter Ryan's comments on a national radio program in

which he talked "of men not working and just generations of men not even thinking about working or learning the value of work."

Jones wrote in his letter that he "expected a little more" from Ryan.

"Come to Paterson, Congressman Ryan, and I will take you around the streets of one of the poorest cities in New Jersey, and you can meet the families of people who work two and sometimes

three jobs to put food on the table and clothes on their children," Jones wrote in his Tuesday letter.

NJ Police Seeks Suspect

The Hackensack NJ police department has issued a sketch of a luring suspect who tried to persuade a 13-year-old middle school student to get into his car. The boy was on his way to school shortly after 7:30 a.m. last week.



A man in a black two-door Honda Civic pulled over on Union Street and said he needed help finding his daughter's lost puppy. "The child did exactly what he was supposed to do," "He said, 'No, sir, I can't help you,' and he ran up Union Street to school and told administrators what happened."

Owner of Mortgage Modification Company Jailed

Isaak Khafizov, 27, Queens, New York, a former owner of American Home Recovery (AHR), a mortgage loan modification business, was sentenced in

Manhattan federal court with a plea to defraud distressed homeowners and lenders.

Khafizov was convicted in May 2012 of one count of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, one count of mail fraud, and two counts of wire fraud, after a ten-day jury trial presided over by U.S. District Judge George B. Daniels, who also imposed the sentence.

According to the Superseding Indictment filed in Manhattan federal court, other court documents, and statements made during court proceedings:

In the spring of 2008, Khafizov, Jaime Cassuto, and David Cassuto founded AHR, a mortgage modification business that oper-

ated in Manhattan. From the spring of 2008 through the summer of 2009, Khafizov used AHR to commit a systematic fraud that preyed on distressed homeowners.

All told, Khafizov and AHR defrauded financially struggling customers across the

country out of over half a million dollars in fees. Furthermore, because Khafizov and AHR did not do the work they had promised, and because Khafizov specifically

diverted the distressed homeowners' fees instead, many of AHR's customers wound up in foreclosure as a result of the scheme.

In addition to his prison term, Khafizov was sentenced to three years of supervised release.

In sentencing Khafizov, Judge Daniels remarked that victims who feared "being thrown out of their homes" were "desperately seeking help" from Khafizov because he "promised to solve what, for most of these people, was the most serious problem that they had ever encountered in their lives."

Jaime Cassuto and David Cassuto each

pleaded guilty to multiple counts of fraud in April 2012. They await sentencing.

Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced the sentence.

Bronx is least healthy county

WASHINGTON —

Almost one out of five U.S. families live in housing with severe problems, such as overcrowding, insufficient cooking and bathing facilities or costs

above 50% of family income, according to a new report measuring the nation's healthiest and least-healthy counties.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which partnered with the rankings program at the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute released

their results in this year's County Health Rankings & Roadmaps.

In New York's Bronx County 37% of residents face housing issues, according to the rankings.

This month, the Bronx topped the state comptroller's list for having the most people — 57% — who paid more than 30% of their incomes toward rent.

The Bronx, which is part of New York City, was last of New York's 62 counties.

'Celebrity Sunday' at the Holiday Inn

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NEWS

Dahved sued for \$1,500

By Shirley Irons
Street Hype Writer

Caribbean-born show promoter and radio personality/WBLS 107.5 FM, Dahved Levy has been sued for non-payment of professional fees.

The lawsuit was filed at the Civil Court of the City of New York, Kings County on March 4, 2013 against co-owner Levy and his associates, Mike Samuel and Peter Apping of Devon Productions by Anne-Rhea Smith for failure to pay professional services rendered leading to the Michel Montana 30th Anniversary Concert on June 23, 2012 on the Intrepid Museum in New York City.

Smith, a publicist and media consultant was contracted by Devonish Promotions to promote the Michel Montana 30th Anniversary Concert boasting various artists including Barrington Levy and Mr. Vegas, Soca princess Patrice and 3 Canal.

Court documents submitted to *Street Hype* showed Smith entered into an agreement with the promoters on June 5, 2012 for \$3,500 plus expenses and was paid \$2,000 on June 25th, 2012 after the concert. Smith stated she provided the services under the contract and was promised the balance of \$1,500 a week after the event. Smith further claimed that several attempts to reach the promoters to settle the matter were ignored.

In response to Smith's complaint, Devonish Productions filed a Demand for Verified Bill of Particulars in April 2013 requesting specific documents to justify her claims. According to Smith, she provided all the documents requested under the Demand



Dahved Levy
Show promoter, radio personality
Caribbean Fever/WBLS 107.5 FM

to the promoters at a court appearance in May 2012 and in August, she received a letter from the promoters' attorney, Christopher Sowers stating dissatisfaction with her services among other claims and an offer to settle the case within 5 days for \$500.

"In my efforts to provide professional media services for the Machel Montana 30/30 Intrepid Concert, I realize that the promoter Caribbean Fever - Dahved Levy and his team- were not ready to conduct business in the same manner," a disappointed Smith said.

She further stated that on the night of the concert, having established her duties pertaining to the contract as it relates to the event, Smith and her team additionally supported the event when mayhem broke out at the entrance of the Intrepid because of the



Anne-Rhea Smith
Sued Dahved Levy for
non-payment of professional fees.

absence of quality control and inept customer service provided by Devon Promotions.

Mike Samuel, one of the promoters named in the lawsuit told *Street Hype* "Ms. Smith went beyond the call of duty to help us with the event. I would never deny that she did her job as the publicist; her payment was allocated in the budget."

Levy was the first radio announcer/DJ to host three separate shows on different radio stations simultaneously in the New York market and has made his mark in the local Caribbean music scene as promoter. He's also known as a radio personality 'without borders' with some 20 years in the business.

Levy when contacted denied comment on the lawsuit referring all questions to his attorney Sowers who did not return Street Hype calls. No return court date has been set for the parties.

Doctor on Medicare Fraud

A Long Island doctor was arrested today on charges that he submitted millions of dollars in false billings to Medicare.

Dr. Syed Imran Ahmed, 49, was charged with one count of health care fraud by a criminal complaint unsealed this morning in federal court in Brooklyn last Friday.

A seizure warrant seeking millions of dollars of Ahmed's alleged ill-gotten gains, including the contents of seven bank accounts, was also unsealed.

In addition, a civil forfeiture complaint was also filed today against Ahmed's residence located in Muttontown, valued at approximately \$4 million.

Further, search warrants were executed at six locations in New York, Michigan and Nevada.

As alleged in the complaint, Ahmed engaged in a scheme to submit claims to Medicare for surgical procedures that were not in fact performed.

The complaint alleges multiple instances in which either patients told law enforcement officers that they never had the procedures that were billed, or hospital medical records did not contain any evidence that the procedures were actually performed.

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NEWS OF THE WORLD

Minister Glenn Fired

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO:

The Trinidad & Tobago, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar recently advised her president Anthony Carmona to revoke the appointment of Minister of the People and Social Development Dr Glenn Ramadharsingh.

In taking action on the minister, Persad-Bissessar said there must be no compromise on integrity and no allowance for arrogance in her Government.

Her action comes 11 days after the local newspaper *Express* exclusively reported in a story by investigative journalist Denyse Renne that police were investigating a report of disorderly behaviour by Ramadharsingh on board a domestic flight from Tobago to Trinidad on March 16.

Caribbean Airlines Ltd (CAL) flight



Glenn Ramadharsingh

attendant Ronelle Laidlow, 25, filed a complaint that the minister's hand touched her breast when he reached for her ID badge, which was pinned to her blouse, and threatened to have her fired.

Two official reports were made by the flight attendant—to the security department of the Airports Authority of T&T (AATT) and the Piarco police sub-station.

Ramadharsingh subsequently apologised for his behaviour saying he was suffering from "severe fatigue" but denied touching Laidlow or threatened to have her fired.

B'dos recognised as pillar of stability

The way forward for Barbados rests on a two-pronged policy of stronger economic growth and a slimmer government.

These two approaches to economic policy making were revealed by the Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados and featured in the recent 2014 Euromoney Survey on Barbados.

It is revealed in the survey that the plan for the island is to enhance tax revenues through diversification while adding value to other areas of the economy.

Such areas mentioned are, tourism, international business and financial services, agribusiness and "rising sectors like transshipment services, information technology, software application development and

even film production".

As for pushing for a smaller government the survey noted that Barbadian leaders have been true to their word. It reported that last month the government laid off about half of the 3 000 temporary officers in the public service.

Among the areas featured in the Euromoney survey are: Barbados being an underrated sovereign with low tax, business friendly investment climate; Robust economic fundamentals, aided by high economic and political stability; The region's best hard and software infrastructure; from

telecoms to education; and a world class white-collar workforce supporting a booming business services sector.

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Politician freed of corruption charges

Kingston, Jamaica WI

Former Junior Energy Minister Kern Spencer has been freed of corruption and money laundering charges. Spencer along with his former personal assistant, Coleen Wright, was freed on Monday (March 24) by Senior Resident Magistrate Judith Pusey in the Corporate Area Criminal Court.

The two, who have been on trial for four years, broke down in tears when Pusey released them after upholding no-case submissions by their attorneys.

Spencer and Wright were accused of money laundering in the Cuban Lightbulb distribution programme and of creating several companies to funnel money out of the programme in 2007.

Spencer, the former Member of Parliament for North East St Elizabeth, said he was not surprised by the judge's ruling, but expressed bitterness that so many years of his life have been lost.

"I'm extremely elated at the announcement from the judge this morning. To be honest I am not surprised. I was always confident of my innocence from the beginning. I still feel a bit bitter, that at the prime of my life, six years were taken away from me at the time when I should be taking care of myself and my family. My children and family were totally embarrassed. I have kids who on several occasions had to receive counseling," he said.

In the meantime one of the attorney's representing Spencer - Deborah Martin, said she was not surprised by the judge's ruling. "We respect the judicial process and, having been arrested and charged, we obeyed what was required of us in keeping with the process. But from the very outset, based on the material we had, we were of the view that the crown would not have succeeded. The material that we had was not in keeping with what the public was led to believe in this case and, but for Mr. Chin



KERN SPENCER
former Member of Parliament
North East St Elizabeth

being introduced, there was nothing in what was disclosed to us to have caused us to believe that Mr. Spencer would have had a case to answer at this stage," she said.

Attorney, KD Knight, who also defended Spencer and Wright, said the Magistrate had to dismiss the case based on the evidence presented.

Meanwhile, Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Paula Llewellyn, who presented the prosecution's case in the trial, said she had no doubt that Spencer and Wright had a case to answer as there was an abundance of evidence.

While accepting the judge's decision, she lamented the lack of an opportunity for the prosecution to appeal under Jamaica's law.

"It is (for) the learned trial judge to decide on the matter of law. The public, through the media, heard quite a bit of the evidence that was placed before the court. I will leave the public to judge. But as I've said before, the system of justice that we have does not give the prosecution any right of appeal at this level in respect of any issue. So certainly we have no choice and we are obligated to respect the decision of the court," the DPP said.

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LEGAL ISSUES

The Plight of Immigrants in Custody Conditions

Courtesy of www.holdchpaccountable.org

Customs and Border Protection routinely detains individuals for prolonged interrogations, pending adjudication of their claims based on persecution and/or torture in their country of origin, pending removal proceedings or execution of a removal order, and, sometimes, without any legal basis at all.

Notably, immigration detention is civil, not criminal, in nature. Noncitizens detained by CBP generally either have

committed no criminal offense or already have successfully served a criminal sentence.

Nevertheless, CBP holds these individuals in jails or jail-like institutions where many are subjected to such horrors as abuse and mistreatment by officials, deprivation of adequate medical care, unlawful searches, and appalling living conditions. Some CBP detainees report confinement in hieleras, or "iceboxes", with multiple occupants, no heating, no furniture, no showers, and a single common sink and toilet with no privacy.

Court: Bloggers have First Amendment protections

A federal appeals court ruled Friday that bloggers and the public have the same First Amendment protections as journalists when sued for defamation: If the issue is of public concern, plaintiffs have to prove negligence to win damages.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered a new trial in a defamation lawsuit brought by an Oregon bankruptcy trustee against a Montana blogger who wrote online that the court appointed trustee criminally mishandled a bankruptcy case. The appeals court ruled that the trustee was

not a public figure, which could have invoked an even higher standard of showing the writer acted with malice, but the issue was of public concern, so the negligence standard applied.

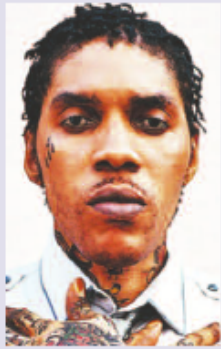
Gregg Leslie of the Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press said the ruling affirms what many have long argued: Standards set by a 1974 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, *Gertz v. Robert Welch Inc.*, apply to everyone, not just journalists.

Vybz Kartel Sentencing Delayed

The sentencing of Vybz Kartel and his co-accused Shawn Campbell, Kahira Jones and Andre St John has been delayed until Thursday, April 3, 2014.

It's understood that the Judge Justice Lennox Campbell has requested that the defence provide some pertinent information before going ahead with handing down the sentences.

They were found guilty on March 13 for the murder of Clive "Lizard" Williams.



Vybz Kartel

The men were convicted 2 weeks ago after a trial that lasted five months.

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SPORTS



NEWS IN BRIEF

Allyson, Sanchez, Gatlin for Jamaica Invitational

World champion Shelly-Ann Fraser Pryce and Olympic champion Allyson Felix are set for another renewal of their 200 meters rivalry when they clash at the Jamaica international invitational meet on May 3.

Meet Director Donald Quarrie confirmed on Friday that the athletes will clash at Jamaica's National Stadium in Kingston. Fraser Pryce had finished behind Felix when the American won the Olympic title in London. But Felix pulled up injured when

Fraser Pryce won the world title last year. At Friday's launch of the meet, it was announced that American, Justin Gatlin, had been added to the star studded line up.

Gatlin, the World Championship silver medalist, will be joined by Jamaican Nesta Carter who took the bronze in Moscow last year.

Felix Sanchez, the respected 400 metre hurdler of the Dominican Republic, Blessing Okagbare of Nigeria, Americans Sanya Richards Ross, Francena McCorory, Briana Rollins, Lawshawn Merritt and Curtis Mitchell, along with Jamaicans Stephanie McPherson and Kaliese Spencer are some of the big names already confirmed for the meet.

West Indies Women swept aside host Bangladesh

SYLHET, Bangladesh -

West Indies Women swept aside host Bangladesh by 36 runs to win their second match in the ICC T20 World Cup at Sylhet Stadium here on Wednesday.

Leg break bowler, Shaquana Quintyne, 18 grabbed three wickets to inflict a top order submission that severely restricted the host who imploded for 79, on the hunt for 116 set by West Indies.

Quintyne returned impressive figures of three wickets for five runs from three overs which included a maiden and received support from Tremayne Smartt and Anisa Mohammed who picked up two for nine and two for 22 respectively.

The teenager, who also scored 11 and was voted player-of-the-match, knocked back the stumps of two frontline batsmen-opener Ayasha Rahman for 10 and Fargana Hogue for 2-to leave Bangladesh scrambling for momentum.

But middle order batsman Rumana Ahmed top scored with 26 to lead a fight-back that injected a measure of stability into Bangladesh's innings.

In the process, Ahmed added 28 for the 5th wicket with Nuzhat Tasnia before another batting collapse ensued and the match swung decisively in favour of the visitors.



New Rochelle Girls Relay Runs To National Championship:

New Rochelle's 4 x 200 relay of (l-r) Symone Darius, Ashley Wiggins, Victoria Jones-Alleyne and Alicia Donaldson won Sunday's race at the New Balance Nationals at The Armory in New York. Ashley Wiggins passed the baton to Victoria Jones-Alleyne on the second exchange for New Rochelle's 4 x 200 relay in Sunday's championship race at the New Balance Indoor Nationals and hoped her teammates could hold the lead. The Huguenots did, winning the race in 1:38:41. The team of Symone Darius, Wiggins, Jones-Alleyne and anchor Victoria Donaldson posted the fastest time of the year in the United States and held off Parkland, N.C., which ran 1:38:59. Cheltenham, Pa. finished third in 1:39:00. The meet was held at The Armory in New York. New Rochelle, which won the New York state meet earlier this month, also set a school record.

-Photo Credit: New Rochelle girls track and field website

West Indies wins Bangladesh

West Indies defeated Bangladesh by 73 runs to get its ICC World T20 campaign back on track on Tuesday.

The Caribbean team, batting first, made 171/7. Opener Dwayne Smith top scored with 72 from 43 balls, hitting 10 fours and three sixes. His opening partner, Chris Gayle, made 48.

Al-Amin Hossain was the most successful bowler for Bangladesh, taking 3/21 from his four overs.

The Bangladeshis were in trouble, almost from the start of their reply, with Samuel Badree dismissing Tamim Iqbal, caught by Dwayne Bravo for five in the third over with the score then on 14.

It got worse at the start of the fourth over when Krishmar Santokie deceived Anamul Haque to have him stumped by wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin for 10. It became 16/3 next ball when Santokie bowled Shakib Al Hasan for a first ball duck. The host team never recovered from that point, losing wickets at regular intervals.

Badree finished with 4-15 (4 overs), Santokie 3-17 (4 overs), Andre Russell 2-10 (2.1 overs) and Sunil Narine 1-17 (4 overs).

The West Indies, with this win and a loss to India on Sunday, will next face Australia on Friday.

Allegations of corruption in Qatar 2022 World Cup

AP Sports Writer

Organizers of the 2022 World Cup distanced themselves Tuesday from allegations of corruption involving two former high-ranking FIFA officials that raised new questions about Qatar's winning bid for the tournament.

British newspaper The Daily Telegraph alleged Tuesday it has evidence that former FIFA vice president Jack Warner of Trinidad & Tobago and his family were paid almost \$2 million from a company controlled by

Mohamed Bin Hammam, a Qatari who used to be an executive committee member of world football's governing body.

According to documents seen by the newspaper, a note from one of Warner's companies, Jamad, to Bin Hammam's firm,

Kemco, requested \$1.2 million for work carried out between 2005 and 2010. The note was dated Dec. 15, 2010, two weeks after Qatar was awarded the World Cup. The payment was made in 2011.

Payments totaling \$750,000 were paid to Warner's sons and a further \$400,000 to one of his employees, the Telegraph alleged.

The transactions were processed via a bank in New York and have come to the attention of the FBI, which the newspaper alleged is investigating Warner and his links

to the Qatar bid. Qatar organizers said Tuesday the bid "strictly adhered to FIFA's bidding regulations in compliance with their code of ethics."

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ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

• **Fatta Diamond and Pasha present 'Old School Meets New School # 2'** on April 26, 2014 at the Starz Banquet Hall 231-36 Merrick Boulevard, Queens. Patrons will be treated to music from the 80s to now played by the top DJs - Stinga Movements With Fatta Diamond, DJ Wayne, DJ Fresh, and Black Stone. Admission \$20. Ladies free before 1am. Call: 718-777-8279.

• **Caribbean Cultural Theatre presents Pantomime** by Derek Walcott on Friday, March 21 @ 7:30 p.m. at Actors Fund Center 160 Schermerhorn Street (bet. Hoyt & Smith Street) Brooklyn, NY 11210.

• **Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts** at Brooklyn College presents Monty Alexander in Concert on Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 8:00 p.m. Brooklyn College 2900 Campus Road (Flatbush Avenue) Brooklyn, NY 11210

• **Braata Productions** a not for profit organization presents a Jamaica Play, "Not About Eve" on Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 30, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m. Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning, 161-04 Jamaica Avenue Queens, NY 11432

• **Edwin Allen High School Alumni Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter** presents their 50th Anniversary Spring 2014 Gala Saturday, April 5, 2014 @ 9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Verdi's of Westbury 680 Old Country Road Westbury, NY 11590

• **The Jamaica Organisation of New Jersey** presents its Annual "All Schools Fete" Saturday, April 5, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m. Highland Park Youth Center 220 South 6th Avenue Highland Park, NJ 08904

• **Jah Jerry, Inc.** presents their Annual Spring Scholarship Dinner Dance on Saturday, April 12, 2014 @ 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Country Kitchen Restaurant BJ's Shopping Center, Pelham Manor Plaza 810 Pelham Parkway, Pelham Manor, NY 10803

• **Holmwood Past Students Association NY Chapter** presents their Penn Relays Fundraiser on Saturday, April 19, 2014 @ 10:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. C. W. Mixon New Life Center 112-50 Springfield Boulevard, Queens Village, NY 11429

• **Caribbean Youth Summit 2014** to be held on Friday, April 25, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. First District Plaza Renaissance Room 3801 Market Street Philadelphia PA 19104 The Organisation for International Development, Inc. presents their 24th Anniversary Fundraising Spring Luncheon Sunday, April 27, 2014 @ 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Greentree Country Club 538 Davenport Avenue New Rochelle, NY 10805.

Place your

events here
editor@streethype.net

'Your Eyes Can't See My Heart'

Queens-based Jamaican born attorney, inspirational speaker, radio show host, mother-of-nine and humanitarian, Audrey Thomas will be hosting the inaugural "Annual Empowerment Seminar" at the York College's Performing Arts Center, 94-45 Guy R Brewer Boulevard, Queens on Sunday (April 13) at 5:00 pm.

The event promises to be an intimate discussion with Thomas who will also launch her book, 'Your Eyes Can't See My Heart,' which has been described by her colleague attorney Steven A. Metcalf, II, as a "powerful story about personal transformation, intellectual development, and main-

taining a positive outlook on life. Audrey has created a masterpiece," he declared.

He also noted that the book reinforces the conclusion that a willingness to learn and to adapt is greater than socialization. "It shows that intellectual growth and a change in perspective can reform hate. 'Your Eyes Can't See My Heart,' provides the reader with a feeling of empowerment that only Audrey A. Thomas can provide," Metcalf added.

Several local reggae artists will provide entertainment, while comedian and radio personality Kingsley 'Ragashanti' Stewart will serve as the master of ceremonies.



Audrey A. Thomas
Attorney, inspirational speaker,
radio show host & humanitarian

APOLLO THEATER



The Apollo Theater partners with World Music Institute to present Africa Now! - a 4-day festival spotlighting today's African music scene.

The show will be staged on April 2 - 6, 2014 at Apollo Theater, 253 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027

The festival's centerpiece event, a blow-out concert on the Apollo's Mainstage, will showcase a griot trio from Senegal, a roots-reggae/Afrobeat collective from Sierra Leone and a dynamo diva from Mali. Other festival events include special Family Showtime and Apollo Music Café performances, a film screening and much more!

E-Dee Remix

E-Dee recently released the remix 'Drunk In Love' by Beyonce mix by Grammy Producer Qmillion. E-Dee burst on to the music scene in 2007 when his collaboration with Irie Love, "Revolution" hit the top ten in Jamaica, and was nominated for an EME award for best collaboration.

At the same time his feature on Ms. Triniti's hit "Bongce Along" was also in the Top Ten on the island as well as landing in the Top 20 Billboard R&B/Hip-Hop single sales charts. In 2010 Dennis reached the Jamaican Top Ten charts again with "Rightful Place". In 2011, Everton starred in "Out the Gate" a feature film loosely based on his life.

www.instagram.com/evertonedeedennis
Booking US: qmillion@unseenlab.com



Pepsi (Jamaica) Signs Konshens As Brand Ambassador

Kingston, Jamaica WI

Pepsi has done it again! Jamaica's favorite cola has inked a deal with one of dancehall biggest and brightest stars, Konshens.

Over the years Konshens has been building an arsenal of hits including 'This Means Money' 'Good Girl Gone Bad' featuring Tarrus Riley, 'Realdest Song', 'Gyal A Bubble' and 'Do Sumn', just to name a few. Konshens has performed on almost every major reggae show across the world and has racked up several international and national awards.

According to Carla Hollingsworth Brand Manager Pepsi Konshens was the ideal choice as he is a perfect fit for the brand.



"Konshens is an extremely talented, ambitious, young entertainer. He has shown his skill on the stage and in musical circles he has demonstrated professionalism and dedication some of the attributes that we like to see here at Pepsi," Hollingsworth said.

April Lineup at Flushing Town Hall

Flushing, Queens - Spring has officially arrived and there's lots to celebrate at Flushing Town Hall this Spring season! This April 2014, we offer a stellar line up of family performances (One Night In Frogtown & Black Violin) and free festivals at our newly renovated theater, very first spring camp, a new exhibition opening and

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POLITICAL AFFAIRS

FBI raided Assemblyman Scarborough office

ALBANY—Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation raided the Albany office of Assemblyman William Scarborough this morning, he confirmed to reporters.

Scarborough, a Queens Democrat, said the F.B.I. asked questions about the per diem reimbursements that legislators collect for each day they spend in the Capitol. Agents took papers from his offices in Albany and Jamaica, and also accosted him in his hotel room this morning.

"I'm innocent, but I understand the reality," Scarborough said to a group of reporters who, hearing rumors, flocked to his office on the sixth floor of the Legislative Office Building. "I don't know what's going to go on. I am going to talk to a lawyer, this is just stunning to me."

Scarborough said the agents showed



**Assemblyman
William Scarborough**

up at his hotel room at 5:45 this morning, and took "a whole litany of things," including his smartphone.

"I do not believe that they will find anything in any of those locations that will verify any illegality or be incriminating," he said.

A spokeswoman for the F.B.I. confirmed the raid but said the office is not releasing any further details at this time.

Scarborough received \$59,085 in per diem payments between 2010 and 2011. He submitted voucher payments claiming \$825 for five nights in Albany from March 13th to March 17th 2011, while public records showed he attended a town meeting at York College in Jamaica Queens that Thursday.

"I may very well have gone to that meeting, turned around and gone back to Albany that night," Scarborough told the New York Post in 2012. "If we arrive in Albany before midnight, we're entitled to put in for the night."

The Assembly doesn't require members to submit hotel receipts and Scarborough told the Post he would not look for them. "I don't think I have to give you proof," he said at the time.

On Wednesday, Scarborough said the F.B.I. visit was the result of a "tabloid hit job." Scarborough said agents mentioned the possibility of others being involved or indicted, then quickly walked the statement back.

"What I was told was there might be indictments and I would not be one of them. When I spoke with people here they seem to have tempered that statement, so I have no idea," he said.

When asked for clarification, Scarborough said, "That was the implication, I can only tell you the implication based on the conversation."

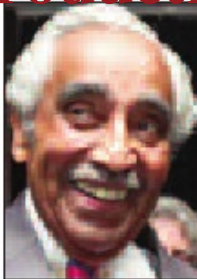
Rangel - Most Productive Member Of Congress

Congressman Charles B. Rangel, the veteran Representative of New York's 13th Congressional District, is once again named the most productive Member of Congress.

According to TrackBill, which rated the amount and the impact of legislation passed by each Member of Congress over the past five sessions (108-112th Congress), Rangel passed the most number of bills that he sponsored, including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care.

"I'm honored to be recognized again for working hard on behalf of my constituents and the American people to get things done,"

said Rangel, who in 2010 was lawmaker with the most number of bills passed in the House of Representatives according to Open Congress, which also tracks legislative activities. "I have dedicated my life to serving my community and



**Congressman
Charles B. Rangel**

country -- I am fired up to keep fighting for what is in their best interest and to move our great nation forward."

According to the TrackBill analysis, Rangel passed 31 bills out of 290 that he sponsored, the most out of the 540 (including 5 Delegates) legislators in both chambers of Congress. Some of the issues Rangel most focused on were transportation, finance, government affairs and security, veterans affairs, and health. Other Members who made the top ten following Rangel's lead: Rep. Don Young (R-AL) with 27 out of 287; Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT) with 22 out of 263; Rep. F.

James Sensenbrenner Jr. (R-WI) with 19 out of 174; Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ) with 18 out of 209; Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) with 17 out of 591; Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) with 16 out of 582; Rep. Lamar S. Smith (R-TX) with 16 out of 117; Rep. John L. Mica (R-FL) with 15 out of 61; and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) with 15 out of 272.

TrackBill is a powerful tool used by Fortune 1000 companies, prominent lobbying firms, leading advocacy groups and influential non-profits to keep informed of legislative activity in Congress and all 50 states.

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PUBLISHER/EDITOR'S PARTY:

Street Hype's publisher/editor Patrick Maitland (1st l) raps with staff and friends at his March 20 birthday/office party held in Mount Vernon. Also in photo (l-r) Bernadette Bucknor, Richard Littlejohn, Divine Diva, Ky-Enie and Omar Nethersole.



NY HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE:

Council Member Andy King and Congressman Charles Rangel thank the many navigators who assisted Bronx residents in enrolling in health insurance through New York's health insurance exchange on Saturday at the Williamsbridge NAACP ECE Center in the Bronx. The time to enroll in New York's health insurance exchange is now. The deadline is March 31th.

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EASTER FEATURE

Not Eating Meat During Lent

By Maggie McCormick,
eHow Contributor

Lent (*Latin: Quadragesima - English: Fortieth*) is a solemn religious observance in the liturgical calendar of many Christian denominations that begins on Ash Wednesday and covers a period of approximately six weeks before Easter Day.

The Vatican suggests that giving up meat is the highest form of penance one can do. Every year, Catholics between the ages of 14 and 60 should abstain from eating meat on Fridays during Lent.

Some may find the specific rules about abstinence confusing, as some animal products are allowable. Do your best to abstain from meat during Lenten Fridays as a sign of your devotion to God.

Fasting and abstaining from meat has tradition based in the Old Testament. In the past, the rule was that all Fridays were to be special days of penance and that the highest form of penance was not eating meat.

Thus, Catholics did not eat meat at all on Fridays. More recently, however, this practice has been reduced to only the Fridays during Lent -- stemming from when Pope Paul VI wrote the "Apostolic Constitution on Penance" in 1966, according to American Catholic. If you do eat meat on Fridays outside of Lent, you should consider doing an alternate penance, such as volunteering or saying a special prayer.

What's Allowed and What's Not

Catholics are not supposed to eat flesh

from meat or fowl. However, eating fish is acceptable, which accounts for the various "Friday Fish Fry" deals you often see at restaurants during the Lenten season. Abstaining from meat does not include all animal products, so dairy products and eggs are also allowable foods.

American Catholic also states that meat-based flavorings -- such as a beef broth soup -- are allowable.

Surviving Meatless Fridays

Plan fish-based meals if you feel you must eat some type of animal product at each meal. Otherwise, consider your vegetarian options. A variety of vegetarian meat substitutes may satisfy any cravings you have. You could also plan bean- or tofu-based meals for the protein or simply stick with vegetable sandwiches or pasta dishes.

If You Do Eat Meat

Occasionally, you may forget that you weren't supposed to eat meat and order a sausage sandwich for lunch or be served meat on a Lenten Friday when you are a house guest. The church does not consider this a serious slip-up. If you're concerned, do an extra penance on your own or confess the transgression the next time you have confession.



LENTEN PRODUCTS PROMOTION

Grace Foods recently kicked off its Soups and Lenten products promotion at Fine Fare Supermarket, (E233rd & Baychester Ave) Bronx. Seen here is a lucky family being presented with a gift courtesy of Grace Foods by the Bullzii girls. In photo (Front L-R) Jolia Mazzullo (Bullzii), Mishka Nelson, Jennifer Wills, Milan Wills and Michelle Wright (Bullzii) and (Back Row: L-R) Dionne Nelson and Sheneca Nelson.



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EASTER FEATURE

Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus

Easter the latter two derived from Hebrew: Pesah is a Christian festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his crucifixion at Calvary as described in the New Testament.

Easter is the culmination of the Passion of Christ, preceded by Lent, a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.

The last week of Lent is called Holy Week, and it contains the days of the Easter Triduum, including Maundy Thursday (also known as Holy Thursday), commemorating the Last Supper and its preceding foot washing, as well as Good

Friday, commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Easter is followed by a fifty-day period called Eastertide, or the Easter Season, ending with Pentecost Sunday.

Easter is a moveable feast, meaning it is not fixed in relation to the civil calendar.

The First Council of Nicaea (325) established the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the full moon (the Paschal Full Moon) following the March equinox.

Ecclesiastically, the equinox is reckoned to be on 21 March (although the astronomical equinox occurs on 20 March in most years), and the "Full Moon" is not necessarily on the astronomically correct date.



Easter eggs are a popular cultural symbol of Easter.

The date of Easter therefore varies between 22 March and 25 April inclusive. Eastern Christianity bases its calculations on the Julian calendar, whose 21 March corresponds, during the 21st century, to 3 April in the Gregorian calendar, and in which therefore the celebration of Easter varies between 4 April and 8 May.

Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover by much of its symbolism, as well as by its position in the calendar. In many languages, the words for "Easter" and "Passover" are identical or very similar. Easter customs vary across the Christian world, and include sunrise services, exclaiming the Paschal greeting, clipping the church and decorating Easter eggs, a symbol of the empty tomb.

Additional customs that have become associated with Easter and are observed by both Christians and some non-Christians include egg hunting, the Easter Bunny, and Easter parades.

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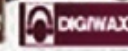
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YOUTH & EDUCATION

Mount Vernon Boys And Girls Club Names Youth Of The Year



Alyssa Diggs
Nellie A. Thornton High
School sophomore

by Zak Failla
mountvernondailyvoice.com

MOUNT VERNON:

The Boys and Girls Club of Mount Vernon has named Nellie A. Thornton High School sophomore Alyssa Diggs as its 2014-15 Youth of the Year.

Diggs has been a longtime member of the Boys and Girls Club, and as she has gotten older, she has become an important volunteer for the organization. While working with the Summer and After School programs, she accrued nearly 400 hours of community service.

The 15-year-old, who hopes to attend the Fashion Institute of Technology upon her graduation, said that joining the club helped her come out of her shell as she progresses through her teenage years.

"The club is a place I can meet new

friends. When I first joined, I stayed to myself most of the time, [but] I've become extremely comfortable with my peers," she said. "Having an outlet like that means more to me than the staff will ever know."

Each year, the Boys and Girls Club designates its Youth of the Year, a club member between 14 and 18 years old that has enjoyed community, familial and academic success throughout the previous year. The winners then participate in the state competition for a \$1,000 scholarship.

If Diggs were to win the state competition, she would compete in the regional, then national competitions for another \$60,000 and the chance to meet President Barack Obama.

"[Alyssa] displays good conduct and moral character. She cooperates with others, counsels kids who need advising, and works well with junior and senior staff," Teen Coordinator Halima Penny said. "I know she will do well in accomplishing her goals and I look forward to watching her meet them."

According to Diggs' mother Barbara, her daughter struggled initially with the transition from middle to high school, though her grades have since rebounded, and she's become an important role model to her brother Trevon and sister Alana.

Diggs credits the Boys and Girls Club of Mount Vernon for much of her

maturity, going so far as to call its staff and members "family."

"I have so many people to talk to here that are trustworthy," she said. "That means the world to me. The club is an extension of my family, my home away from home."

Spotlight On Yolonda Watson '16

By Richard Relkin,
rrelkin@sfc.edu

When Yolonda Watson '16 signed up for the Entrepreneurship & Innovation course offered by the Center for Entrepreneurship at St. Francis College, she knew she would learn a few things about how to improve her travel business. But what she didn't know was it would lead to her getting a \$2,000 loan that positions her business to really take off.

"I enjoyed the presenters that took time out of their busy schedule to come to class and inform us of their business and products to help entrepreneurs," said Watson.

One of the guest speakers for the course was a representative from Accion, a nonprofit organization that offers training, resources, and loans to small business. She immediately followed up with the presenter and applied for a loan.

Yolonda had been growing her business, Destiny Tours & Travel, slowly but surely through word of mouth. But now, the loan made it possible to purchase a computer and significantly ramp up her business.

A Professional Studies major, Yolonda is already seeing the results.

The combination of the new computer with information from the class has helped her become more efficient and able to handle more and bigger travel bookings for her growing list of clients.



YOLONDA WATSON
St. Francis Center
For Entrepreneurship

Accion is not the only organization having an immediate impact. Yolonda is also now working with Capital One bank in hopes of setting up a line of credit that can help her continue to grow.

The Center for Entrepreneurship is committed to promoting social entrepreneurship which is about building a business venture that offers social value by creating jobs, wealth and opportunities for the community at large. Through education, research, and programs, the Center promotes entrepreneurial activities and initiatives. Go to sfc.edu/entrepreneur

St. Francis College, founded in 1859 by the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn, is

located in Brooklyn Heights, N.Y. Since its founding, the College has pursued its Franciscan mission to provide an affordable, high-quality education to students from New York City's five boroughs and beyond.



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BEAUTY CARE

Lock & Twists Hairstyles

By Victoria Thompson,
eHow Contributor

Many people want healthy, stylish hairstyles. Wearing locks and twists are a great alternative to chemically altering hair if you desire a natural style. Locks and twists can be worn in many ways, like loosely, up-swept styles or ones adorned with accessories. The wearer can start and maintain many of the locks and twists, or a licensed loctician can professionally style them.

Sisterlocks

Originated by Dr. Cromwell, the Sisterlock method is a patented technique that must be maintained by a loctician who has had this training. Sisterlocks are small locks that create versatile hairstyles. A latchhook tool is used to begin the locks and retighten them. The locks are started by making small parted sections in the hair and twisting the sections with the tool until the lock cannot loosen. Sisterlocks can be started when relaxer is still in the hair. As the hair grows, new growth soon replaces the relaxer.

Braidlocks

Braidlocks are formed by creating small individual braids throughout the hair. The hair is parted to the size the wearer wants the lock to be. Braidlocks are used to form small, thin locks. As the braids grow and are replaced with new growth, a latchhook is used to twist that section of hair. The braidlocks are completely locked when the new lock replaces the braid.

Freeform Locks

Freeform locks are locks that have not been created by twisting, latching or palm rolling. No tightening is involved in this method. After hair has been washed and conditioned, the hair is separated into vari-



ous sections and allowed to air dry. The hair in these sections will eventually lock together because it isn't combed, brushed or otherwise stimulated.

Two Strand Twists

Two strand twists hold their shape better when no relaxer is in the hair. To begin the process, you use your fingers to separate a small section of hair. You don't need to part the hair with a comb because you don't

want visible parts. Separate the section into two strands. Apply a lock gel or cream to the strands, and begin to firmly twist, beginning at the scalp. Twist the entire shaft of hair to its end. If the hair is natural, you won't need to secure the hair; it will curl up. You then sit under a dryer to let the gel dry and make sure each twist is secured.

Flat Twists

Flat twists lay flat on the scalp and resemble cornrows. You achieve this style by making a long part. Start twisting the section of hair closely to the scalp, picking up more hair as you move down the part. Once the entire section has been twisted, secure the hair with a rubber band or other hair accessory to ensure that it doesn't unravel. Flat twists can be worn in various decorative designs.



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NEW JERSEY FOCUS

Crime jumps by 20%

Few issues are more important in Paterson, NJ than crime. The city had more armed robberies in 2012, following police layoffs, than any year in almost two decades, and the number of people wounded in shootings jumped by 20 percent.

Those numbers declined in 2013, but crime still is a major concern to residents, and no part of the city is crime-free.

Mayor Jeffery Jones, who is seeking reelection, said reducing crime means rehiring 125 police officers, who he said were laid off by the city at the state's direction.

Jones said that "ill-conceived" cost-cutting measure imposed by the state reduced the police force from 496 officers to 371. While 60 men and women were rehired, 46 retired, and now there are 385 police on the staff, more than

100 fewer than in April 2011. There are 19 new officers in police training now, but the city needs more police, Jones said. He said he's demanded that the state remove restrictions on hiring.

Those coin collectors

There are coin collectors, and then there's Thomas Rica. While the true hobbyist seeks quality coinage, Rica was more interested in quantity — amassing 1.8 million individual quarters.



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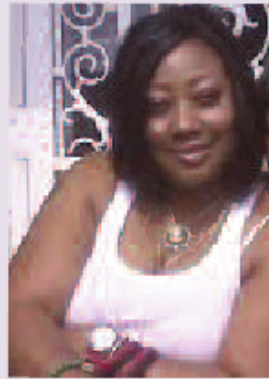
Unfortunately, he acquired them illegally. Rica — once employed as Ridgewood NJ's public works inspector — quite literally pocketed himself a small fortune over 25 months before his arrest last year.

All told, the 43-year-old Hawthorne NJ resident admitted that he had stolen at least \$460,600 from Ridgewood's coin-collection room.

Collectively, his take weighed 11.25 tons, according to the U.S. Mint. That's the equivalent of three elephants, a single 84-passenger bus or nine Honda Civics. But Rica didn't deposit it all at once; he cashed in the loose change over time at several bank branches using coin machines to avoid detection, authorities said.

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ADVICE
COLUMN

BY
DIVINE DIVA



Mother of the Bride

Dear Divine Diva:

Spring is here, and with it comes the wedding season. Would you please inform your readers about the importance of answering wedding RSVPs? A lot of people appear to need reminding about the need to respond. Thanks!

--Mother Of A Bride And Groom

Readers: When a formal invitation is received, you should immediately return the RSVP card that's enclosed with it. RSVP is the abbreviation for the French phrase "Repondez s'il vous plait," which means "Please reply."

It's important for the people planning the affair to know how many guests will attend so they can

be properly provided for -- for obvious reasons. So please be polite and don't keep them wondering.

--Always Divine Diva

Dear Mother:
I'm glad to oblige -- and congratulations on the double blessing that's coming your way in gaining both a daughter and a son!

Should I see a Marriage Counselor

Dear Divine Diva:

I'm in love with a woman named "Camille" who has three children from three different fathers. She has never been married. She also has a male "friend" whom she has her children calling "Daddy" even though he's not.

I have loved Camille for 20 years, and our paths recently crossed again. When I first meet her, she had only one child.

Camille says she loves me and wants us to be married, but I'm having a hard time accepting that all of these children's fathers will be part of our life -- as well as the "friend." Can a marriage counselor help me get past this?

-- Devoted In The Bronx

Dear Devoted:

I don't know. But before you take this relationship further, you should definitely see one. --Always Divine Diva

Please send questions and comments to Divine Diva • divinestreethype@gmail.com

What is LOVE?

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To love is to make special memories of moments you love to recall of all the good things that sharing life brings love is the greatest of all.

To love is to help and encourage with smiles and sincere words of praise to take time to share to listen and care in tender, affectionate ways.

To love is to share life together to build special plans just for two to work



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HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Among any problems that surface could be a home-versus-work dilemma, but knowing what to do about this could elude you. Perhaps you feel pulled in a number of directions, causing you to question your priorities. The Sun in your sign provides an opportunity to make a fresh start.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It can be hard to stick to a peaceful agenda when disruptions keep popping up, especially if you have a full to-do list anyway. Conversations may hold the key to your problem over the coming days.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Mercury's presence in Pisces could bring all kinds of connections, as well as visionary ideas and spontaneous opportunities. Conversations can be the catalyst for positive progress, especially if you feel moved to share ideas. A decision may be required on Thursday, encouraging you to research your options and look more deeply into the situation at hand.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Career matters and associated efforts can proceed well as long as you're willing to put up with one or two disruptions. It's important to let your individuality shine, so don't be afraid to try something different, even if those closest to you disagree. If your interests take you in too many directions, you could be criticized for lacking focus.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There's a lot of energy in the air and it might feel like turmoil part of the time. Perhaps your self-confidence is being challenged, too. However, no matter how restless or edgy this feels, it could pave the way for exciting and exhilarating options. In this instance, stepping outside your comfort zone might be the way to go.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your zone of shared assets is in focus rather dramatically, which suggests you might be on the verge of taking a financial risk. Even though common sense will likely register in your mind, a spontaneous decision could cause a U-turn.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Romantic opportunities show up as Venus sashays through Aquarius. You could be at your flirtatious best, especially later when an instant attraction registers on your radar. This is a good time to experiment with dating options and lighthearted and easygoing relationships. You're learning what suits you and what doesn't in this regard.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Chances are good you're not too eager to spend time with a whole lot of people, particularly if trust is an issue. However, there are aspects this week that have a lovely romantic vibration. Someone's warm and open personality might entice you to drop your guard when Mercury glides into Pisces.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keeping plans flexible can allow you to adapt more easily to unexpected disruptions. A change that's foisted upon you could turn out to be beneficial. Communications could go awry, especially concerning family members on the home front.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): With Mars currently retrograde, personal or business relationships can get complicated. Try to give others space, but not to the point that you break the lines of communication. It helps to keep talking while being aware of other people's limits and boundaries. An edgy energy at home could call for a make-or-break decision.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Jupiter forges ahead in your work and lifestyle sector, so use this opportunity to catch up on obligations and finalize deadlines. You might have a chance to close a lucrative deal if you're willing to study the terms and conditions in detail. Though some of your conversations could be a little confrontational this week.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Romantic relationships could get a boost in depth and intensity. If single, you could meet someone who won't take no for an answer. Regardless, it might be easier and more fun to give in and enjoy the experience. Finances could be at the heart of any discontent, especially if they're reaching a critical phase.



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HEALTH & NUTRITION

MVP Health Care to pay \$6M
in Restitution to Consumers

After an investigation uncovered widespread violations of mental health parity laws, Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman on March 20 announced a settlement with Schenectady-based MVP Health Care, requiring the health insurer to reform its behavioral health claims review process, cover residential treatment and charge the lower primary care co-payment for outpatient visits to most mental health and substance abuse treatment providers.

The settlement, the second against a health insurer so far this year enforcing the parity laws, also requires the health insurance plan -- which has more than 500,000 members in the Albany region, Central New York and the Hudson Valley -- to submit previously denied mental health and substance abuse treatment claims for independent review, which could result in more than \$6 million being returned to its members.

An investigation by the Attorney General's Health Care Bureau found that since at least 2011, MVP Health Care, through its behavioral health subcontractor, Value Options, issued 40% more denials of coverage in behavioral health cases than in medical cases. The agreement with MVP is the second reached by the Attorney General's office so far this year and stems from a broader, ongoing investigation into health insurance companies' compliance with mental health parity laws.

"Ensuring that New Yorkers have adequate access to mental health and substance abuse treatment should be a priority for our state," Attorney General Schneiderman said. "Insurers must comply with the law to ensure that individuals with mental health conditions are treated no differently than those



Eric T. Schneiderman
NY Attorney General

with physical ailments -- and that they are getting what they pay for from insurers."

New York's mental health parity law, known as Timothy's Law, was enacted in New York in 2006, and requires that insurers provide mental health coverage at least equal to coverage provided for other health conditions.

Mental and emotional well-being is essential to overall health. Every year, almost one in four New Yorkers has symptoms of a mental disorder, but less than half of those people receive treatment.

And, despite the fact that in any given year, one in ten New Yorkers has a substance use disorder, only 11% of these individuals receive any treatment.

Lack of access to treatment for the vulnerable individuals, which can be caused by health plans' coverage denials, can disrupt work, family, and school life, and lead to more serious illness.

NUTRICARE

By
GLORIA BENT, MS, RD, CDN
Nutritionist

Questions & Comments:
Gloria.Bent@gmail.com



Why is too much Sugar bad?

• Cause you to gain weight

One of the most obvious reasons why sugary foods and drinks are bad and can undermine your health is that they tend to be high in calories but not all that filling. That makes it easy to over-consume them, and the excess calories can cause you to gain weight.

• It displaces other healthier foods

Another way that sugar negatively impacts nutrition and health is that it displaces other healthier foods. People often eat sweets instead of other foods that are more nutritious and, as a result, their overall nutrition suffers. Put another way, if you were to replace sweets with nutritious foods like fruits and vegetables, you'd greatly improve the nutritional quality of your diet.

• Sugar suppresses the immune system.

When you eat a big dose of sugar, like a bottle of Coke or a candy bar, you temporarily tamp down your immune system's ability to respond to challenges. The effect lasts for several hours, so if you eat sweets several times a day, your immune system may be perpetually operating at a distinct disadvantage.

• Sugar promotes inflammation.

Inflammation, which is part of the immune response, is not always a bad thing. But eating sugar foods can fuel excessive, inappropriate inflammation that serves no useful purpose and actually promotes aging and disease. In my show on foods that fight inflammation, I pointed out that cutting back on sugary foods will help you avoid excess inflammation.

• Slow down the aging process

If you want to slow down the aging process, do what you can to naturally enhance your body's production of human growth hormone. Avoiding foods that are high in sugar is a good way to do that.

• Sugar promotes glycation.

Sugar molecules treat your body like a singles bar. Once they get into your bloodstream, they start looking around for things to hook up with, like attractive protein and fat molecules. The hook-up is known as "glycation" and like most hook-ups, the results aren't pretty. These glycated molecules act like drunken sailors, careening around your body, breaking things and peeing where they shouldn't.

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Top Ways To Market Your Business

By Steven Teo

ADVERTISEMENT

Marketing a new business idea can be a difficult task and should be done with care and precision to target the correct audience in a way that is both effective and affordable. However, with a little planning and an array of effective techniques in your marketing arsenal, you'll stand a

good chance at advertising success here are some great ways to market your new business idea to get you the exposure you need.

PRESENTATION PACKS

Whether you are trying to get some investors on board or are looking to help others gain awareness of your product or service, tailored presentation packs are a great way to do this. They contain all of the relevant information needed on the product or service and you can include a sample depending on what it is, as well as some merchandising goods used to entice clients and investors and establish your brand.

DISPLAY UNITS AND CARDBOARD STANDS

Visual displays are a great way to advertise and market your product, especially in retail environments and especially if it is positioned in the right place. Floor standing displays are hard to miss and will catch your target market's eye as they walk past; the enormity and size of them will usually help them to stick in everyone's mind. You can also choose to use counter displays, which also are a great way of catching people's attention, especially when they are waiting to pay. As well as cardboard stands, display units are

also a great way to ensure branded products gain the exposure that they need. It is a way to draw in consumers and pull them away from other products by competitors.

SOCIAL MARKETING

By getting a social buzz going around your new product or service, you could gain some public awareness and help it to get some much needed exposure. Using social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest and other platforms, can help. This could be made slightly easier if you already have a strong social following, however if not, then this could help you to gain some exposure as a company as a whole if done right. This can often be easier said than done so, if you don't have your own marketing department in-house, then it's worth outsourcing your social media campaign.

Grace Soup Week Kicks Off In New York

By Anthony Turner
Contributing Writer

Against a backdrop of one of the coldest winters in recent memory in the north-eastern United States, Grace is launching a soul-warming soup campaign designed to celebrate the mouthwatering aromas of its line of Jamaican soups.

The Grace Soup Week 2014 kicks off this week and residents of the New York tri-state region will be invited to either go to their favorite participating restaurant to savour a simmering bowl of soup, or to use one of the Grace soup packets to create a hearty, home-made pot of soup to keep winter's chill at bay.

Participating restaurants are located across New York City in all boroughs and for the remaining days of winter and beyond, one or more Jamaican soups will be included in the menu specials.

"During the winter months we sell a lot of soups", Paul Brown, owner of The Ultimate Grill at 1345 East Gun Hill Road in the Bronx said. "We specialize in chicken soup here and we use the Grace soup mix as our base, then we add our own magic ingre-

dients, so we are looking forward to tantalizing taste buds during Soup Week", he continued.

Brown, who previously co-owned the Caribbean Spice restaurant off Times Square pointed out that he also uses the Grace soup mix to make a steamed snapper with okra that is popular with Bronx residents.

At Jamaica Breeze restaurant on Merrick Boulevard in Queens, owner Mike Duncan is also looking forward to Soup Week. "Here at Jamaica Breeze we serve more Jamaican soups than any other restaurant in New York so we are looking forward to re-charging New Yorkers with a simmering pot loaded with Grace goodness and grandma's secret ingredients, he said.

The line of Grace soups includes cock soup, pumpkin soup, vegetable soup, manish



water, fish tea and a new low-sodium line of some flavours. Recently, late night television host Jay Leno created a stir in culinary circles when he showcased one of the Grace soups in a comedy clip that went viral.

Grace Soup Week in New York will also include television soup features, sampling opportunities at retail outlets and advice from accomplished chefs on how to creatively use the Grace line of soups.

Additionally, consumers who purchase soups during Soup Week from participating

restaurants have a chance to win a VIP gift baskets from Grace.

Other participating restaurants include Footprints Express, 1377 Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn, Footprints Café, 5814 Clarendon Road in Brooklyn and Da Kitchen Café, 1901 Springfield Avenue in Maplewood, NJ., Patmar Bake Shop (205-7 Linden Blvd, St. Albans, NY & 223-10 S. Conduit Ave, Springfield Gardens) and The Door Restaurant, 163-07 Baisley Blvd, Jamaica, NY.

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Additional Show Information:

Saturday March 29th at 8pm and Sunday March 30th at 6pm at The Jamaica Center For Arts and Learning, 161-04 Jamaica Avenue, Queens, NY 11432

**Brooklyn Gets Ready for Monty Alexander**

CaribPR Wire:

infectious rhythms of reggae to create a sin-

Just 11 days before award-winning, New York-based artist Monty Alexander releases his new album, the jazz virtuoso is set for a scintillating performance at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College.

The Jamaican-born, Grammy-nominated performer and his band Harlem-Kingston Express are set to raise the roof in the Caribbean-populated borough of Brooklyn on Saturday, March 29, 2014 from 8 p.m.

"We are bringing a party that will fuse the smooth sounds of jazz classics with the

and the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts this weekend," said Alexander, whose 'Harlem-Kingston Express Vol. 2: The River Rolls On' album will be released on April 8th on the Motéma Music label.

Tickets to see Alexander and the Harlem-Kingston Express are \$40 for orchestra and \$30 for the mezzanine level and can be purchased by phone at 718-951-4500 between Tues-Sat, 1 -6 p.m. or online at BrooklynCenterOnline.org.

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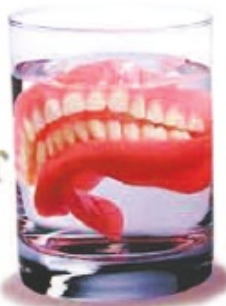
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